

## PE1790/N

Petitioner submission of 2 September 2020

The Minister for Community Safety stated in her submission:

“I appreciate there may be situations where a child has been deliberately turned against one parent and this can be very distressing. In cases where the court is considering an order under section 11 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 (“the 1995 Act”) the paramount consideration for the court is the welfare of the child concerned.”

“It was not considered appropriate or necessary to include provision in the Bill imposing a requirement on the court to consider the possibility of one parent deliberately turning a child against the other parent in every case”

The definition of distressing in context is:

dis·tress

(dī-strēs')

*tr.v.* dis·tressed, dis·tress·ing, dis·tress·es

1. To cause strain, anxiety, or suffering to: Anxiety or mental suffering.
2. Bodily dysfunction or discomfort caused by disease or injury:
3. The condition of being in need of immediate assistance:

The paramount welfare of the child should be no respecter of person or child, and provision for said paramount welfare of the child should be made for every child to quote GIRFEC Getting it right for every child.

Failure to acknowledge this phenomenon is not getting it right for every child.

Indeed, the distress caused which can have lifelong effects is actually more detrimental to merely distressing:

### Trauma

Psychiatric trauma: An experience that is emotionally painful, distressful, or shocking and which may result in lasting mental and physical effects.

Psychiatric trauma is essentially a normal response to an extreme event. It involves the creation of emotional memories about the distressful event that are stored in structures deep within the brain. In general, it is believed that the more direct the exposure to the traumatic event, the higher the risk for emotional harm.

Definition of trauma in context:

trauma

[ trou-muh, traw- ]

*Psychiatry.*

1. an experience that produces psychological injury or pain.
2. the psychological injury so caused.

Psychological Coercive Control caused by the phenomenon which is known as parental alienation has been proved to cause the severe condition of psychiatric trauma which is significantly more harmful from the already down played definition of distressing which is in its self, harmful and not in the paramount consideration of the welfare of the child.

No child or adult should be treated less favourably than another, simply because it does not fit a legislative narrative.

Therefore regardless of Scottish Government officials inability to comprehend the specific factor in the naming convention of the phenomenon currently known as parental alienation does not negate the fact the phenomenon exists and has devastating effects on the paramount welfare of the child.